

Code Alpha
OCOM-4787
8 July 1964
(Kearon) 24

28 April 1964

Section 4 of the above
date certifies this summary

INTERVIEW

IN CUBA

Vladimir Rodriguez Latorra

SUMMARY OF FIRST INTERVIEW

INTERVIEWER

Very briefly we have gone over his history from his school days up to the present time. We have gone over in general what documents he has brought; what his work in intelligence is; and what he knows that would appear to be most significant to the present time. I am going to go over this fairly rapidly in English so that you both will be up-to-date with me. One problem raised is that he wants to go to the U.S. He has relatives there and said that his intention was to work in the States in matters like this, because he feels that this is where he will be most useful. His father-in-law and wife are both in Cuba and he is worried about getting them out. He had given me his true name which is that which you have already mentioned to me and the pseudonym which he uses just depends on what country he goes to. The pseudonym which he uses for his work inside Cuban is Victor.

HISTORY

Very briefly, after he left school he had a couple of jobs and then he began working with the anti-Fidel movement. This is an anti-state movement and his job in this movement was like the work of many others. He used to commit acts of sabotage inside Cuba and try to do propaganda work. While he was engaged in such activities he was taken prisoner in 1957. This was after a fire-bombing. He was in a ship with another fellow, two police cars came up, they opened fire shots but they were captured. He was beaten and stayed in the Castillo Principe which is a jail in Havana. He was sent in part until 11 February 1958 when he got out. He got out of jail and went into the Sierra. There he stayed there for about one year. This is the Cuban Revolution, it is not like the USA or a normal sort of fellow. He did not play a very important role in those years, that is, practically during the time he was with Fidel Castro. When the Batista Government fell on 11 January 1959, the division with which he was fighting was in Santiago de Cuba. They're from Havana with Fidel Castro and a group of rebels who lost to him. When he got there he was captured again but on 16 January 1959, and he reported back at that time was in the Almendares. He did some particular job in this area to fight against the Batista forces. He was captured again and he was sent to the Cuban prison system. He was never a member of the Communist Party.

2180

There he was the second chief. He stayed there until 25 January 1961. At that time he was transferred to National Police Headquarters but he did not have any specific assignment. He was a member of staff without any military specification. He just signed the rosters in the morning and took off, until the end of 1961 at which time he was transferred to a police corps battalion. He remained with the police battalion until September of 1961. At this time he was transferred to the Castillo del Moro in Havana. This was basic security and did not have anything to do with intelligence work. He was in school there until 20 December 1961 when he got holiday leave. He decided that he did not want to stay in the Army anymore. This police work was still an assignment while he was in the Army. He had already begun to have doubts about continuing to work for the Castro government and was thinking in terms of getting out. Then he resigned from the Army his papers were not processed right away, he did not report back to duty and so was reported for being away without leave. Because of this difficulty, he had some difficulty getting work and went out of work until April 1962, when he got a job in the Ministry of Interior themselves. The particular section in which he worked has to do with the importation of vehicles. He remained there until 19 April 1962.

Intelligence Department

He had a fellow named Raul Gonzalez who was an intelligence officer and through him he tried to get a job in Intelligence. They sent him to friend to help the chief or the 2nd Chief of this particular ministry which contains - this is a section which specializes in training agents for assignments abroad, particularly in Latin America. When our friend were began working in Intelligence we he was assigned to the Cuban area. This is the letter about written to the old man from him on his own personal knowledge. This Intelligence Service for which he worked is called D.E.O. or "D" in some language but is properly known as the Cuban National Security Service. This section is engaged in foreign intelligence, "espionage", intelligence operations. In other words, it is an important organization exists for the purpose of collecting information in other countries. It is distinct from the Ministry of Internal Security, which is a national defense type organization. The two are completely separate and have different organizations. He knows [redacted] of the possible need at some point of the intelligence organization of the Cuban National Security, "D.E.O." headed by [redacted] the Cuban National Security Service, D.E.O. headed by [redacted]. I am not going to say to which I already knew the names of the members of the organization, as I am not permitted to go over them. However they are very important as they are now. I am not sure if [redacted] is still in Cuba. I am not sure if [redacted] is still in Cuba.

Later, I visited him at his residence in Central Havana.

He is a tall, dark-skinned man, very tall, about 6 feet tall.

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED
AT THE LIBRARY OF THE
CITY OF MEXICO**

He recently made a trip to Mexico. He made the trip to Mexico in order to contact a Communist Party Group which was coming from El Salvador. There were people with whom he had contact in connection with his job as desk officer for El Salvador. They did not appear for the meeting so the meeting did not take place. He was in Mexico from the 14th of March until the 23rd of March and during that time, although his own operational meetings did not take place, he did meet some people of interest. Two people from Nicaragua, ("Proferter Torres" and Noel Guerrero) one of whom he met in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico and the other whom he met in a private house while in Mexico. In Mexico City he knows who the intelligence people are. One is the Cuban Consul Alfredo Mirabal. He is called the Chief of the Centre. That is his title but he is actually the intelligence chief, or, at least, he was until the 14th of April at which time a replacement came out to Mexico to take over. This fellow's name is "Angel Leon". The source says that the Commercial Attaché whose name is Lopez or Lopez, (he is not sure which) is an intelligence officer and, that no one is Lopez. (I might add that none of these names are familiar to me.)

The Board believes that a Board of Appeals may effectively assist in the resolution of disputes, particularly those of the Secretary.

OPTICAL INSPECTION OF THE DIL

As far as communications are concerned he says that they have been mainly secret action conferences and secret writing. In this, the most common method is, however, because the radio equipment is difficult to get, to buy a letter and go to the post office and mail it. They also use radio (and they say they can do so, which is quite interesting). Some of the radio stations in the area, though not "on the air" transmissions back and forth, particularly in the case of Venezuela. Some of the radio stations in the public service radio for emergency use. However, if you want to send a message, except in dire emergencies, you will have to pay for it. They are simply afraid to use radio. He says, for example, of other countries, of which Venezuela is one, that they have a system of intercept to all of us, for which reason they do not use radio. If they want to send someone a message, they have to do it by wire. And the arrangement is one to a radio station, which is either government owned (except) this matter is handled by the Post Office, or by the P.D.A., Postal Control, Valdez is handling the intercepting stations on their side. So in the case of Venezuela, they do not use radio. Normally they would also use radio, but they do not do so with his system, the orders are given to the radio stations to hold them to the air, so that no one can hear them. The radio stations are not allowed to make any kind of transmission without permission from the government.

APPENDIX

About agents the source said that he himself knew of the following: Five didn't return - he saw six of these two in Mexico very recently on his trip there and the fellow was advanced \$100 dollars to get to Guatemala. One Cuban agent. Two Panamanian agents. Three Salvadorans whom he knew personally and two more who are in Salvador but whom he does not know personally. Three agents in Mexico. One of them is a CPES contact named Mauricio de la Salva. Two of them are Nicaraguans who are in Mexico. One Nicaraguan agent who is now in Cuba. Two agents from South America who are now in prison in Santa Domingo. One from Italy who is now in Cuba. Up to now, I did not get the names. This debriefing is going to take a little while, that is, to get the whole thing down - but from what I have told you I think you can see pretty well what the situation is.